

Hunter education teaches responsibility

What Is Hunter Education?

Kansas Hunter Education teaches new hunters to be responsible hunters. Responsible hunters are ethical, safe and knowledgeable. The Kansas Hunter Education Program was established by the Legislature in 1972. By law, the course must be a minimum of 10 hours in length. Most courses are 12 hours or longer. The courses are taught by volunteer instructors across the state.

The course consists of subjects covering hunter responsibility, ethics, fair chase, history of firearms, firearms basics, ammunition, basic gun safety, field safety, bowhunting, conservation and wildlife management, wildlife of Kansas, outdoor emergencies, and boating safety for hunters. Where possible, students may live fire and/or go through simulated hunting conditions.

Who Needs Hunter Education?

As amended and effective 1 January 2005, Kansas law provides: Anyone born on or after 1 July 1957 must be certified by an approved course in hunter education before they can hunt in Kansas except that anyone 15 years old and under may hunt without hunter education certification provided that they are under the direct supervision of an adult 18 years old or older.

Hunter Education Certification issued by any state, Canadian Province, Mexico, or any additional foreign jurisdictions are deemed to meet the requirements of Kansas Law

No one under the age of 11 will be certified in hunter education. Those under age 11 may take the course on a Space Available basis. Anyone taking the Hunter Education courses prior to age 11, will be required to take the course again for certification after turning 11.

No one under age 12 may hunt by themselves regardless of Hunter Education certi-

fication status. All hunters under age 12 must hunt with an adult.

Those under age 12 may not hunt with others under age 12 unless the group is under the direct supervision of an adult age 18 or older.

Those hunters age 12 and over may hunt by themselves provided that they possess a valid hunter education certification.

Hunters turning age 16 must have completed a hunter education course before they may purchase their first hunting license.

All hunters age 16 to age 27, and all hunters age 12 to age 16 hunting alone, must carry proof of hunter education while hunting.

How Do I Enroll?

Classes are scheduled around the state. The volunteer instructors set the dates and locations for their classes. The majority of classes are held from August to October, the period of peak demand. There are also a good number of classes offered in early spring prior to the turkey season. There are very few classes offered between November and February. Since many classes fill up quickly it is in the student's best interest to plan ahead and sign up as soon as possible for the class that fits personal schedules, school requirements, etc.

All classes are listed on this website as soon as they are scheduled by the volunteer instructors. Classes are also advertised in local papers, fliers at schools and sporting goods stores.

Most classes require you to pre-register with the person or organization listed. Some classes require advanced study on your part. Some will have a requirement to complete an Introduction to Hunter Education Internet course prior to class.

There is no charge for the course materials. Upon successful completion of the course you will be issued a Hunter Education Certificate.

Hunter Referral Program manages deer population

The Hunter Referral Program is intended to help landowners manage deer numbers on their property by increasing deer harvest. Deer populations are above desired levels in some parts of Kansas, and some landowners are seeking ways to reduce deer numbers. The referral program puts landowners in contact with hunters who are looking for a place to hunt.

For the opportunity to find hunters to help you manage deer populations on your land, contact the nearest Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks office listed below.

Hunters can register by filling out this

online referral application form. Hunters may also call any of the Kansas Wildlife and Parks offices listed below and register, or they may receive a postcard application that they can complete and mail back to the address on the back of the postcard.

Hunters then wait to be contacted by a landowner who is seeking hunters. Referral applications will be on file for a single season only, so hunters will need to complete a new referral application if they want to be considered for the following year. Submitting a referral application does not guarantee that a hunter will be contacted or offered a place to hunt.



Norton's Greg Murnahan snagged this 18 inch, 1 pound, 9 ounce walleye on May 6 using nightcrawlers as bait.

Program gets youth involved

Remember the excitement of your first pheasant season opener—the camaraderie of family and friends?

Or perhaps you can still smell the marsh as you followed your father into the predawn on duck season opening day 20 years ago.

If you were fortunate enough to have been introduced to hunting at an early age, you know the magic. It rests in your memories forever, and it drives a basic desire to experience the outdoors each fall.

Hunting is a natural heritage — one that must be passed on from one generation to the next. But hunters are decreasing, and younger generations are in danger of missing these experiences. And fewer hunters reduces the financial, social and political support needed

for effective wildlife management.

“Pass It On” is a program designed to reverse the declining trend in hunter numbers.

While the program is made up of many sub-programs, such as Outdoor Mentors, Shooting Opportunities, Hunting Access, Special Hunts and Education and Awareness, its most valuable component is hunters.

It takes a hunter to make a hunter, and it is critical that youth learn important life lessons in the outdoors from experienced hunters.

You can become involved by taking a youngster hunting. There are new opportunities this year to make those first hunts rewarding, quality experiences.

For more information, visit www.kdwp.state.ks.us



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